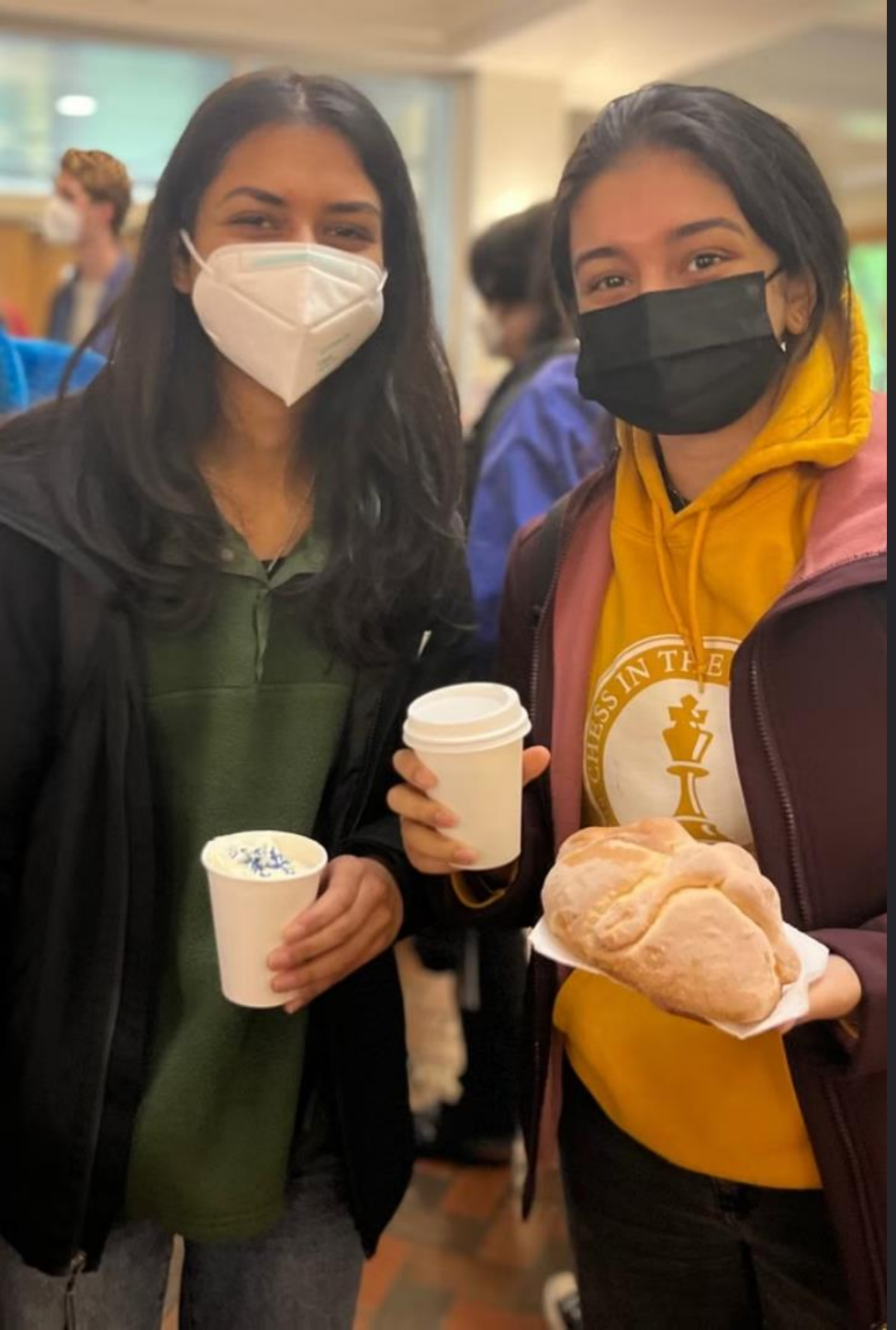
Vibrantly Alive: Zine Letter Writing at Día de los Muertos

Lily De La Fuente

Zine Librarians Unconference

August 3-4, 2024 @ NYU



Día de los Muertos @ Reed Library

Date: November 2022

Location: Library Lobby

Attendance: 300+ community members

Día de los Muertos origins & traditions

pan de muerto = bread of the dead

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

AT REED LIBRARY

LAS CALAVERAS

OCTOBER 27TH - OCTOBER 31ST

ALL DAY IN LIBRARY LOBBY

Is there a deceased poet or author you'd like us to commemorate?

Come write down their name on one of **las calaveras** in the library lobby

Use our zine station to write an anonymous letter to a lost loved one

We will use the paper skulls to decorate **la ofrenda** for the **Día de los muertos** celebration on Wednesday, November 2nd!

LA OFRENDA

NOVEMBER 2ND

11:30 - 2:00 PM IN LIBRARY LOBBY

It is believed the dead are enticed by the taste and smell of food

Come enjoy some hot chocolate and **pan de muerto**

Join us for the lighting of **la ofrenda**

Make a bracelet and enjoy the music

Let's celebrate our family and friends... **vivos y muertos** ♥

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE REED COMMUNITY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
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EXIT
TRASH

Celebrating Life and Death

Vibrant Celebrations

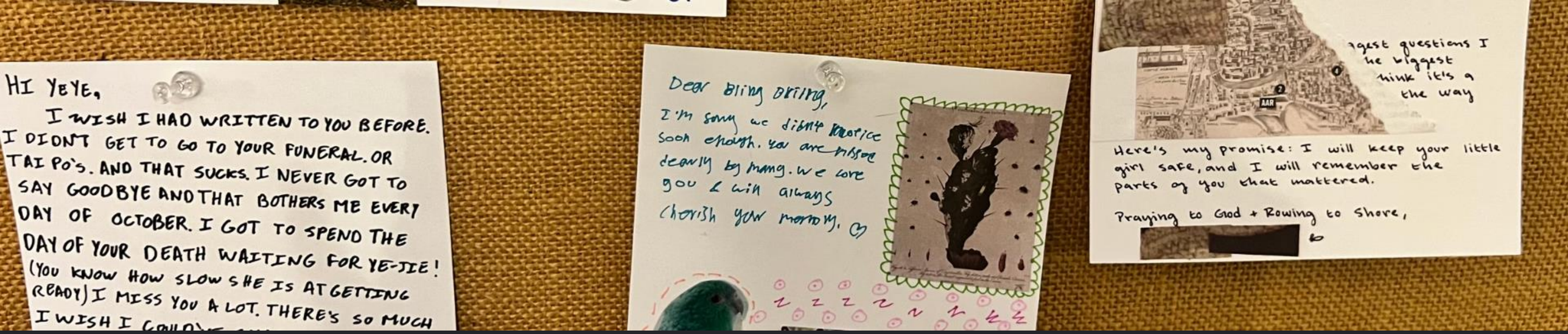
Día de los Muertos is a vibrant celebration marked by colorful decorations, lively music, and traditional foods like pan de muerto.

Honoring the Dead

At the heart of the holiday is the deep reverence for departed loved ones, with families creating elaborate ofrendas to welcome their spirits.

Shared Remembrance

The zine-making activity at the library allowed participants to come together and share their personal stories and remembrances of those who have passed.



Zine Letter Writing as Remembrance

Reflection

Community

Preservation

Papop,

We were n
unfortunate
eachother, exc
me to really k
both kind and

I'm sorry that
worst
only
how y
really

thik I will ever
e you, which I d

wish you could k
. I know you didn't know
alive – I was too mad
u were too drunk. Maybe
. Maybe that's why you
and I'll never be

gest questions I
he biggest
hink it's a
the way

Here's my promise: I will keep your little girl safe, and I will remember the parts of you that mattered.

Praying to God + Rowing to Shore,

[redacted] b

HI YEYE,

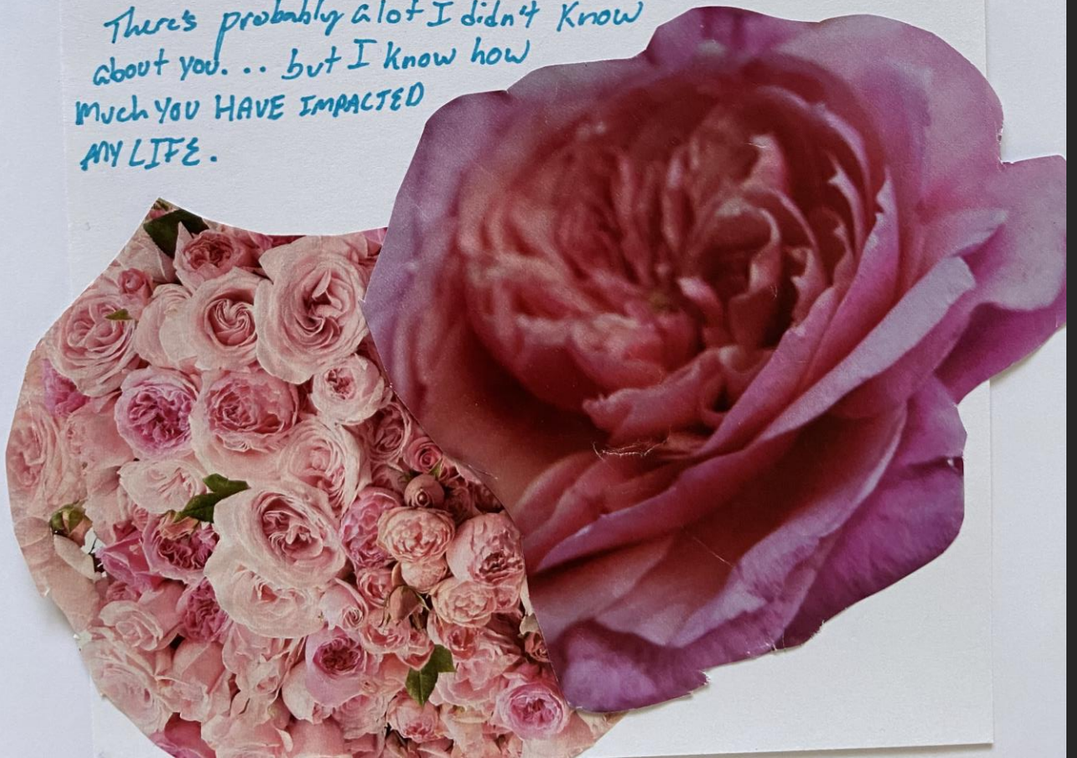
I WISH I HAD WRITTEN TO YOU BEFORE. I DIDN'T GET TO GO TO YOUR FUNERAL. OR TAI PO'S. AND THAT SUCKS. I NEVER GOT TO SAY GOODBYE AND THAT BOTHERS ME EVERY DAY OF OCTOBER. I GOT TO SPEND THE DAY OF YOUR DEATH WAITING FOR YE-JIE! (YOU KNOW HOW SLOW SHE IS AT GETTING READY) I MISS YOU A LOT. THERE'S SO MUCH I WISH I COULD'VE SHARED W YOU. I CAN HOLD A CONVERSATION IN CHINESE NOW! ~~AHMA~~ AHMA WAS SO HAPPY. HOPEFULLY SHE'S HAPPY MY HAND WRITING SOMEWHAT IMPROVED TOO. I STILL USE CHOPSTICKS WRONG THO. ~~MAY~~ MAYBE YOU CAN TEACH ME AGAIN IN THE AFTERLIFE :) I GET TO GO TO MALAYSIA SOON. IT'S HARD KNOWING IT MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME SEEING AHMA & YI BO. BUT I'M SUR WE'LL STILL HAVE FUN, I HOPE I GET TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOU & THEM OFC. MAYBE PAPA WILL LET ME DRINK FREELY IN MALAYSIA HEHE. IN THE MEAN TIME, I WANNA TOAST TO YOU. I KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING OVER ME. THANK YOU.

HERE'S TO YOU, YEYE.

我想念你. ♡黃韋

乾杯!

Primi, your flowers, unending fervor to the altars you set up in your home. The Train sets... Your Two kitty Cats.
I will never forget you and your drawings and Visions and Confessions no matter how traumatic.
May your Rose petals full of tears and Simply Squeezed Orange Juice and Trains be with you forever.
There's probably a lot I didn't Know about you... but I know how much YOU HAVE IMPACTED MY LIFE.

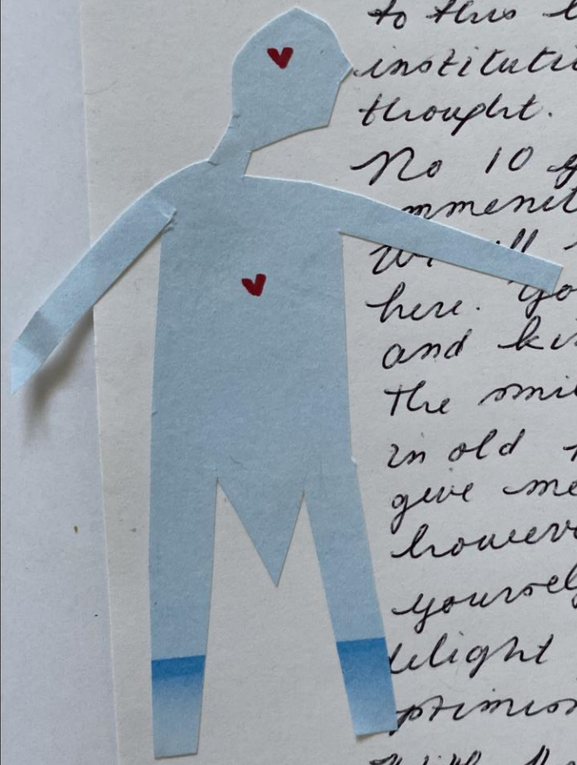


Johan,

Against your father's wishes, I have shunned your alma mater and come instead to this blasphemous institution of liberal thought. No 7 ski resorts. No 10 year old
mmenities.
We'll miss you down here. You were patient, and kind, and courageous. The smiles that remain in old photo albums give me hope that however you find yourself now, you'll delight in all the primisms.

With Love,

Your not so little cousin.



Zines as cultural markers

- Capture the spirit and emotions of the event in the moment
- Serve as stamps in time that preserve the memory of a cultural event
- Demonstrate the intergenerational nature of the day

Zine-making as therapeutic outlet

Emotional Healing

The process of creating zines can be a therapeutic outlet, allowing participants to express their grief and celebrate the lives of their loved ones.

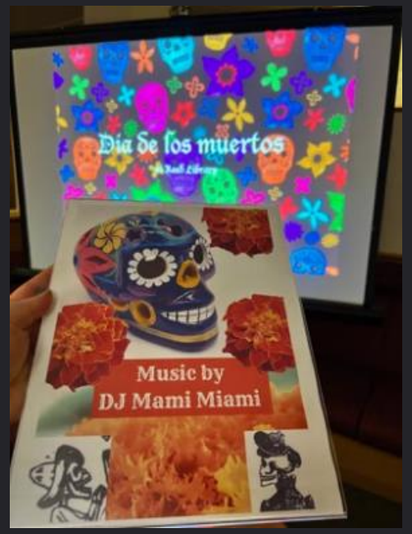
Social Connection

The shared experience of zine-making fosters a sense of community, providing a space for participants to support and connect with one another.

Creative Expression

Zine-making encourages creativity and self-expression, empowering participants to find unique ways to commemorate and honor the dead.

Muchas gracias to many people



Let's connect!

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